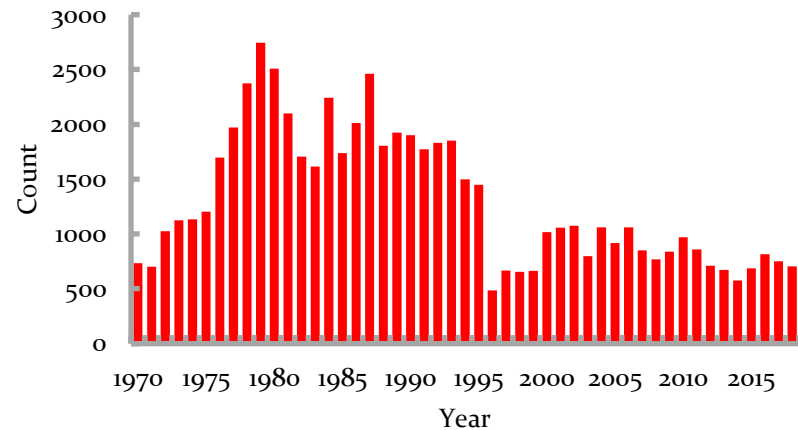


# Week 1 – 02



# What is a discipline?

## *In theory*

- A field of study (or a *knowledge specialty*)
  - topics of interest
  - theories
- A community of experts who share
  - research methods
  - terminology
  - epistemological/ideological outlooks

## *In practice*

- An institutional structure within a university
  - Degree programs (e.g., BA, MA, PhD)
  - Departmental hiring
  - Scholarly journals

# Disciplinary Categories

- Natural Sciences
  - biology, chemistry, earth science, mathematics, physics
- Social Sciences (or Human Sciences)
  - anthropology, sociology, psychology, economics, political science
- Humanities
  - History, literature, philosophy, religious studies, art history, musicology, visual studies, theatre criticism
- Applied Disciplines
  - communications, business, fine and performing arts (sculpture, directing, etc.)
- Professions
  - architecture, engineering, law, nursing, education, social work (require licensure or accreditation)

# Disciplinary Categories

## *Subdisciplines*

- A subdivision of a traditional discipline.
- Anthropology subsumes subdisciplines like cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, anthropology of religion, etc.

## *Interdisciplines*

- “between disciplines”
- An interdiscipline starts as an interdisciplinary field, but over time becomes like a discipline, developing its own curriculum, journals, & institutional structures.
- Examples: Biochemistry, neuroscience,  
music psychology

# Origins – Disciplinarity

## *University*

- The university emerged in the 12<sup>th</sup> century CE.
- The term ‘university’ refers to the totality of a group, as in a group of students.
- The modern university is an institution of higher learning that provides teaching and research and is authorized to grant degrees.

## *Core Curriculum*

- 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries CE
- *Trivium* logic, grammar, rhetoric (qualitative)
- *Quadrivium* arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, music (quantitative)



# Origins – Disciplinarity

## *Pedagogical Settings*

- By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, three pedagogical settings became the norm:
  - Seminar (colloquium)
  - Laboratory (tutorial)
  - Classroom (lecture)

## *Rise of Modern Disciplines*

- 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Disciplines in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities emerged.
- National organizations appeared (Royal Astronomical Society, 1831).

# Origins – Interdisciplinarity

*Why did interdisciplinarity emerge in 20<sup>th</sup> century university curricula?*

## 1) **General education movement**

- After World War I, university-level education was fragmented across disparate disciplines, so administrators sought to (re)emphasize the values associated with classical humanism.
  - *Traditional interdisciplinarity* – emphasize secular cultural values and liberal education.
  - *Pragmatic interdisciplinarity* – solve problems in society that cannot be solved by one discipline.

## **Common Core of Knowledge**

# Origins – Interdisciplinarity

*Why did interdisciplinarity emerge in 20<sup>th</sup> century university curricula?*

## 2) 1960s

- Vietnam War
- Student revolution
- Civil Rights movement
- ***Interdisciplinary studies*** became a programmatic, value-laden term that stood for reform, innovation, progression, and opening up the university to marginalized publics.
- African American studies, women's studies, and ethnic studies.



## **Next Class (Tuesday, 8/31)**

- Social Data & Corpus Studies

### **Homework:**

- READING: Manovich, “Trending: The Promises and the Challenges...” (16 pages)
- READING: Wilkens, “Canons, Close Reading, and the Evolution of Method” (10 pages)